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**U.S. spy network stunned as Yank traitor betrays our man in Moscow**

# SOVIETS EXECUTE CIA'S TOP MOLE

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WASHINGTON — The CIA's most prized "mole" in the Soviet Union was arrested and executed last summer. The Post learned last night.

He was captured through information provided to the KGB by fugitive CIA turncoat Edward Howard.

Top U.S. intelligence officials confirmed last night that the American agent, A.G. Tolkachev, was arrested and executed last July after being betrayed by Howard — his former "control" or supervising case officer, in Moscow.

Tolkachev was an electronics wizard who worked at a top-secret military aviation compound in Moscow.

According to an account in yesterday's Wall Street Journal, Tolkachev for several years had provided the CIA with details of the latest Soviet advances in radar and "stealth technology" — the most sensitive information in military aviation.

He also is believed to have given the U.S. its first tipoff about Soviet plans for the large phased-array radar

system under construction in Krasnoyarsk — the center of the Soviet's own Star Wars nuclear defense system.

Last night, the CIA would give no official comment on the latest revelation to rock the intelligence underworld.

But administration and congressional sources confirmed to The Post that the CIA had lost one of its most treasured "human assets" behind the Iron Curtain as a result of Howard's double-dealing with Moscow.

Tolkachev's arrest for espionage was announced by the Soviet news agency Tass in July.

Howard, a former CIA agent with a history of emotional problems, escaped an FBI dragnet in New Mexico on Sept. 23 after his dealings with Moscow were exposed by KGB defector Vitaly Yurchenko — the No. 5 man in the KGB.

He had been working as an economic analyst for the New Mexico Legislature.

He is now believed to be under safekeeping in the Soviet Union.

Howard, 33, joined the CIA in January 1981

and was assigned as a deep-cover case officer to the U.S. Embassy in Moscow.

His main assignment, sources confirmed, was to handle the information being provided to the embassy by Tolkachev through a series of "dead-drop" sites established throughout Moscow.

The CIA had established through a series of polygraph tests that Howard had a history of drug problems including cocaine. In 1983, Howard was eased out of the CIA under orders from CIA Deputy Director John MacMahon.

It is believed that Howard's bitterness at being fired by the CIA is what prompted him to become a traitor.

The loss of one of the CIA's most important spies and the bungling of Howard's case by the CIA has angered key members of congressional committees.

The CIA's counter-intelligence abilities were crippled in the '70s in the wake of the domestic spying scandals that led to the firing of counter-intelligence chief James Angleton.

Intelligence experts say that the FBI has never been given the proper funding and resources to keep up with the steady increase of Soviet espionage activities in the U.S.

The congressmen are demanding that both the FBI and the CIA improve its counter-intelligence capabilities.



Associated Press Photos

Newly released photo shows F-15 jet launching anti-satellite missile during secret test. Technology is closely guarded because of high-stakes espionage war.



The Soviet space shuttle — on which U.S. intelligence keeps close tabs — is the Red centerpiece in the space-weapons race.